

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SAM-01 /058 W

----- 056088

R 061702Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2765

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1782

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LE LY

SUBJ: AN NAHAR EDITOR GHASSAN TUENI'S VIEWS ON QADHAFI

1. GHASSAN TUENI YESTERDAY, FEB 5, TOLD ME THAT QADHAFI, WHEN HE INTERVIEWED HIM LAST MONTH IN TRIPOLI, GAVE HIM THE IMPRESSION OF BEING A MUCH SOUNDER INDIVIDUAL THAN HE HAD BEEN HERETOFORE. TUENI SAID THAT DURING 90 MINUTE INTERVIEW QADHAFI APPEARED MUCH MORE RELAXED AND MODERATE. TUENI ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS GAVE HIM OPPORTUNITY TO BADMOUTH SADAT, WHICH QADHAFI DID NOT REPEAT NOT DO. TUENI SUBSEQUENTLY HAD LONG INTERVIEW WITH SADAT DURING WHICH HE REPORTED TO SADAT IMPRESSION HE HAD GAINED OF QADHAFI. SADAT SAID THIS WAS OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO HIM, IN THAT TWO OTHER MEN WHOSE OPINIONS HE RESPECTED HAD MADE SIMILAR REPORTS WITHIN LAST FEW DAYS. ONE OF THEM WAS SUDANESE MINISTER OF INTERIOR, WHOSE VIEWS SADAT RESPECTED. SUDANESE HAD INDICATED SAME IMPRESSIONS AS TUENI HAD OBTAINED AND HAD STATED THAT QADHAFI NOW BEGINNING TO SHOW SOME SIGNS OF STATESMANSHIP.

GODLEY

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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